

# Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202

We prepare learners for the future.



## Administration Center

15732 Howard Street  
Plainfield, IL 60544  
[www.learningcommunity202.org](http://www.learningcommunity202.org)

(815) 577-4008 – telephone  
(815) 436-7824 – main fax

December 2009

Dear District 202 Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and healthy as we head into winter and the holiday season.

Like all school districts, we have been working hard to address the H1N1 (swine flu) situation for many months. Part of our plan is a promise to regularly update our community on the status of the H1N1 flu in our district. This is our second update about the H1N1 flu.

As we shared in October, we are not tracking individual cases of the virus because it is so prevalent. However, we continue to aggressively and proactively support our students and families through education about the flu virus, easy ways to prevent getting sick and appropriate steps to take when we do take ill.

We have seen an increase in the number of student absences due to “influenza-like illnesses” or “ILI”. Our numbers peaked in late October at about 3,400 student absences due to ILI.

It is important to note that this was not the number of students who were sick. Rather it was the number of absences due to ILI. In other words, one student could have been absent for five days, which would have counted for five ILI-related absences.

Still, any time there are a significant number of absences due to a contagious disease there is good reason for caution and concern.

That being said, in recent weeks the number of absences due to ILI – including, therefore possible cases of H1N1 – have dropped significantly.

For the week ending December 4, 2009 (the most current information available) there were 361 student absences due to ILI. That is an 89 percent drop from the peak in late October.

This is welcome news for the obvious reasons.

First and foremost, we all want our children and family members, not to mention the district staff members who educate and care for our children, to be healthy.

It is prudent to remain cautious. We still face several months of cold and flu season.

Yet, we are hopeful that this decline in ILI-related absences indicates that people are indeed doing what health officials continue to recommend to avoid getting sick.

We continue to encourage our students, staff and family members to:

- practice good health etiquette by covering your face when you cough or sneeze
- wash your hands often with soap and water
- stay home when you do get sick.

We're also hopeful that these lower numbers are a sign that more people are benefitting from the opportunities to get vaccinated against H1N1.

District 202 was happy and proud to host two Will County Health Department H1N1 vaccine clinics in October and November at Plainfield High School – Central Campus. A third clinic is scheduled from 6-10 p.m. at PHSCC on December 17, 2009.

Those two initial clinics provided vaccine for about 4,200 people of all ages, free of charge. With luck, doctor's offices and private providers will soon be able to give the same vaccinations.

As winter approaches, we continue to encourage our families and community to focus less on the H1N1 virus itself, and more on the preventative measures that seem to be working. We will continue to update you on the H1N1 situation throughout the cold and flu season. We want all of our students and staff in school, learning, teaching and working, as much as possible.

More information is available on the front page of the District 202 web site ([www.psd202.org](http://www.psd202.org)).

Thank you, as always for your patience, understanding and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Harper". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Dr. John Harper  
Superintendent of Schools